

# 2016

## Notes from each of the 8 tables during the DASL AGM, Lambeth Equalities Commission Session



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### 1. COMMENTS ON GETTING THE BEST START IN LIFE, EDUCATION

- Because of cuts system confusing.
- Lack of support to access SEN.
- Not knowing rights of relatives responsible for disabled child.
- Getting the best start in life, Disabled Parents worry about:

No youth clubs  
No apprenticeships  
Access to info being learnt / correct format  
Physical PA support  
Getting your voice heard  
Police do not engage with young.

- Community youth projects – educate people about disability and inequality from a young age.
- Transport for school
- Accessibility – Deaf, Blind, Physical Impairments, need specialist teacher training in communication.
- Stems inequality if not educated properly in first instance.
- Have to have a decent education and support network in place to enable a rounded education.
- No Cuts in funding – has impact on disabled children’s education, with knock on effect in later life.  
Correct information to be given.

### 2. COMMENTS ON EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY

- People with disabilities are increasingly perceived as a drain on society and this reduces opportunities for work and inclusion. More could be done to change mindset and see people as valued members of society with much to offer.
- Some cultures have negative attitudes to disability.
- Attitude towards Disability needs to change.
- Not everyone is online or can use computers.

- Lack of accessible information leads to inequalities and exclusion – e.g. not functioning website (e.g. blue badge renewal)
- No large print format.
- Phone system to contact council services too difficult to navigate.
- Inaccessible buildings
- Poor quality housing – still an issue for disabled people.
- No register of accessible housing – classification needed and ringfencing.
- Discrimination against unseen disabilities.
- Provisions are out there but people don't know their rights.
- Good provision of information needed.
- People fall through the net – funding / not knowing about services.
- Some people don't know what they need.
- At a local and community level –

Not listening

No holistic approach

Electronic requirements proving difficult (online services?)

- Changing way services are delivered – not all online etc.
- Accessibility –

Buildings

Staff have no training / understanding of disabled people

Awareness and attitude to disability

Education

Cut backs in resources e.g. less interpreters for Deaf children in schools.

- Invisible disabilities
- Decision makers – appear to lack correct training and/or knowledge on the access needs of carers / disabled carers and those with disability.
- Lack of empathy.
- Lack of awareness at Job Centre Plus of employing people with disabilities.

## COMMENTS ON NATIONAL ISSUES

- Disabled people put to the side by society
- Difference between practice and what is being said.
- WRAG ESA Cuts (-£29 per week from April 2017)
- Need local solution to Government Welfare Reform.
- National policies are increasingly inequalities.
- Benefit system should not be punitive for people who cannot get work.
- “Access to Work” cuts reversed – lobby govt.

## COMMENTS ON EMPLOYMENT

- Employment – refusal to include disabled people (access, time off for appointments etc.)

No jobs for people with learning disabilities, not given a chance. i.e.

- Apprenticeships
- Mentoring / Intern
- Work Experience

- Career Guidance
- Equal pay for people with LD
- Funding in place to support people in work. Make it easier to access funding.
- Care workers need to be employed under good terms and conditions and be adequately managed.
- As people become disabled they need support to ensure their job remains accessible – to stay in work.
- Employers view disabled people as what they need due to disability rather than what they can offer.
- People are not important to government and this trickles down.
- Lack of opportunities / space to hear people's views.
- Build more confidence in people so they can access opportunities.
- Adaptations in the workplace
- Ensure employers are up-to-date on Disability Discrimination Act to enable people to work.
- Employers should not have disability question on application form.
- Promotion should be fair to all.
- Small businesses encourage them to employ disabled people.

### **3. WHAT WOULD MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

- Recognise accumulative impact of long term poverty / low income on disabled people.
- Having good community resources and support for independent living.
- Looking for opportunities where disabled groups can contribute to local communities. More equality in sharing resources across groups.
- Regular groups for disabled people to come together to share experiences.
- Open days.
- More advertising / media coverage.
- Reach out to community groups working with hard to reach groups.
- Design participation-led campaigns
- Have permanent Equalities Commission / Forum
- Need for training on disability awareness.
- Treat people as individuals.
- Build more social housing.
- Need specialist, expert advice services.
- Stop repeatedly asking us the same questions, implement recommendations we make!
- Met. Police need training to deal with Autistic / challenging behaviour due to disability not being aggressive.
- Work with Mayor's office.
- Public toilets – critical.
- Bus stops should be more accessible.
- Parking for mobility scooters, particularly on estates.
- Advice Services and Advocacy Services are crucial because increasingly only those who shout loudest get services – anyone with a speech impairment or learning disability or unclear about the system, someone needs to help them to access their rights.
- Special helpline for disabled residents e.g. for housing problems.
- Meeting place for carers.
- Personal alarms in the home.
- More support for peer support / More peer support.

### **4. COMMENTS ON THE COMMISSION: PARTICIPATION AND REPRESENTATION**

- How will you let people know about the satellite meetings?

- Have a particular session with carers.
- Emails, texts to community, more networking.
- Key role in decision making
- Too narrow a range of people involved in commission.
- “Community Leader” but not community.
- Commissioners don’t reflect community.
- Transport – have a specific session.
- Implementation / Co-production?
- LGBT community?
- Disabled children must be included in the work of the Commission.
- Don’t have people who are not disabled representing the needs of disabled people.
- Disabled people as commissioners.
- Who is speaking up for disabled people?
- Service users not represented adequately.
- Inequality is around in Lambeth. Part of the Commission should include everyone. Representative of all, include all walks of life.
- More involvement of disabled people in decision making bodies and processes.
- Disabled people to be involved in policy making and interviews.
- Service users on the Commission either individual or groups (DASL?)
- Trade Union involved by interviews, review, commission / plan?
- Mechanisms to allow people to provide comments / feedback
- DASL / Lambeth Mencap – user forums?
- Pulling groups together and collating information.
- Providing results: what is being proposed and decided.
- Disseminating results and findings / following through on next steps.
- Improve accessibility on transportation / physical access at stations.
- Inclusive thinking in new developments across the board.
- Use the “community base” to speak / contact disabled people.
- Advertising Commission on social media.
- Access to information on opportunities / support etc.
- Outcomes – where will this be reported back and how will people know if anything has changed?
- Reporting back to community – e.g. after 6 months, 1 year on what has been achieved, what has changed.
- Look at previous strategies e.g. older people, disability.
- Get feedback from actual service users.
- Tangible outcomes.
- Community Groups, individuals with groups and service providers for priority groups and service users of those groups.
- Why can’t service users be Commissioners?
- We are the community
- Bring us in! Use our knowledge!

## OTHER COMMENTS

- Overemphasis on property developments.
- No information from centre, council etc. change of mindset re: how to communicate.
- Cuts in funding – used to be people from Lambeth at clinic etc.